

## **Tithes, Offerings, and Taxes**

### **Tithes**

**Gen 14:18-20** — Abraham paid a tithe to the local monarch who blessed him, and this was before the Law and the Levitical Priesthood. We pay tithes as Abraham's seed.

The tithes were given to the greatest need in the tribe, as to pay the taxes. The tithes permitted all Israel to express trust in God and permitted God to demonstrate His trustworthiness to them. Through lack of this trust some withheld the tithe, as Mal 3:10.

Tithes did not originate with Moses, but with Abraham our father (Gal 3:29), the faith of our father (Jn 8:39; Gen 14:17-20). As Israel, we are no longer under the Mosaic system, but as Gal 3:17 we go back to Abraham.

The tithes paid by Abraham to Melchizedek (Gen 14:20), and the receiving of the blessing of the Priest-King (Gen 14:19; Heb 7:1), show how we must consider taxes to the local monarch where we live. Mal 1:11 has much greater or superior weight than just to the small nation of Israel or its Levitical priesthood, since it goes beyond the borders of natural Israel (Mal 1:5). For the witness of our God makes His name great among the nations (Mal 1:11,14; Mt 24:14).

### **Offerings**

Free-will offerings go beyond the tithe. It is the gift that flows from love, not out of duty or to win God's blessings. Free-will offerings were to meet someone's special need (a dire need). The tithe will not pay for what the offering only can pay. They are given with no expectation of repayment. To be generous to the poor and lend freely without expectation of repayment expresses our love for God.

### **Taxes**

**Mt 22:15-22** — We pay taxes for this reason (Rom 13:6), to support human government, for our presence can be only where 1 Pet 2:12-17 is upheld. Better to be under a government than without one, and government, especially religious, respects more the true religion which pays their dues, giving God the glory and honor among the nations, not identifying with all the evasions religious cults get away with today.